





# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region

Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013  
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640  
Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~wqcb4>

Gray Davis  
Governor

January 15, 2002

Gary Sugano  
City of Oxnard  
305 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Oxnard, CA 93030

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 17 2002**

**PLANNING DIVISION  
CITY OF OXNARD**

RE: CEQA DOCUMENTATION FOR PROJECT IN THE SANTA CLARA WATERSHED  
Project: Riverpark

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CEQA documentation for the above-mentioned project. For your information a list of permitting requirements and Regional Board Contacts is provided in Attachment A hereto.

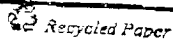
The project site lies in the Santa Clara watershed that was listed as being impaired pursuant to Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act. Impairments listed in reaches downstream from the proposed project include nutrients and their effects, salts, coliform bacteria, and historic pesticides. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board will be developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the watershed, but the proposed project is expected to proceed before applicable TMDLs are adopted. In the interim, the Regional Board must carefully evaluate the potential impacts of new projects that may discharge to impaired waterbodies.

Our review of your documentation shows that it does not include information on how this project will change the loading of these pollutants into the watershed. Please provide the following additional information for both the construction and operational phases of the project.

- For each constituent listed above, please provide an estimate of the concentration (ppb) and load (lbs/day) from non-point and point source discharges.
- Estimates of the amount of additional runoff generated by the project during wet and dry seasons.
- Estimate of the amount of increased or decreased percolation due to the project.

LARWQCB-1

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January 14, 2002

- Estimates of the net change in cubic feet per second of groundwater and surface water contributions under historic drought conditions (as compiled by local water purveyors, the Department of Water Resources, and others), and 10-year 50-year and 100-year flood conditions.

LARWQCB-1

If you have any questions please call me at (213) 576-6683.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Erickson*

*for*

Elizabeth Erickson  
Associated Geologist, TMDL Unit  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

EE  
Attachments

Cc: file  
State Clearinghouse (2000051046)

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## ATTACHMENT A

- ✓ If the proposed project will result in a discharge of dredge or fill into a surface water (including a dry streambed), and is subject to a federal license or permit, the project may require a Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements. For further information, please contact:

Anthony Klecha, Nonpoint Source Unit at (213) 576-6785.

- ✓ If the project involves inland disposal of nonhazardous contaminated soils and materials, the proposed project may be subject to Waste Discharge Requirements. For further information, please contact:

Rodney Nelson, Landfills Unit, at (213) 236-2469.

\*\*\*\*\*

- ✓ If the overall project area is larger than five acres, the proposed project may be subject to the State Board's General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit. For further information, please contact:

Tracy Woods, Statewide General Construction Activity Storm Water Permits at (213) 576-6884.

- ✓ If the project involves a facility that is proposing to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity (e.g., manufacturing, recycling and transportation facilities, etc.), the facility may be subject to the State Board's General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit. For further information, please contact:

Kristie Chung, Statewide General Industrial Storm Water Permits at (213) 576-6807.

- ✓ If the proposed project involves requirements for new development and construction pertaining to municipal storm water programs, please contact:

Dan Radulescu, Municipal Storm Water Permits, Los Angeles County at (213) 576-6668;  
Matt Yeager, Municipal Storm Water Permits, Ventura County at (213) 576-6749.

- ✓ The proposed project also shall comply with the local regulations associated with the applicable Regional Board stormwater permit:

Los Angeles County and Co-permittees:  
NPDES No. CAS614001  
Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-054.

Long Beach County and Co-permittees:  
NPDES CAS004003  
Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 99-060.

Ventura County and Co-permittees:  
NPDES No. CAS004002  
Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-108.

\*\*\*\*\*

- ✓ If the proposed project involves any construction and/or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to surface waters, the project may be subject to NPDES/Waste Discharge Requirements. For further information, please contact:

Augustine Anijelo, General Permitting and Special Projects Unit at (213) 576-6657 (All Region 4 Watersheds).

- ✓ If the proposed project involves any construction and/or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land or groundwater, the project may be subject to Waste Discharge Requirements. For further information, please contact:

Kwang-il Lee, Non-Chapter 15 Unit, at (213) 236-2458 (All Region 4 Watersheds).





# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

Over 50 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties  
Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

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JAN 22 2002

PLANNING DIVISION  
CITY OF OXNARD

January 17, 2002

City of Oxnard  
Oxnard Planning & Env. Services Program  
305 West Third Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: CEQA Documentation for Project in the Santa Clara Watershed

Subject: City of Oxnard Draft Environmental Impact Report: RiverPark Project SCH #2000051046

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the CEQA documentation for the above-mentioned project.

The RiverPark project would develop 1400 acres adjacent to the Santa Clara River to include a mixed-use community of open space, residential, commercial and public facilities including two office buildings. Up to 2805 residential units and 2.5 million square feet of commercial space are planned. Field crops, abandoned gravel pits with active concrete processing and other industrial users currently occupy the land. Groundwater, which is pumped for drinking water and irrigation, is usually exposed in the gravel pits. The area has been the subject of several ongoing investigations by the Regional Board (see for example the staff report for the El Rio Septic Prohibition of 2000).

The comments below are from Regional Board staff in the Ventura Stormwater and the TMDL and Standards Units.

### Stormwater

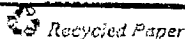
The CEQA document was reviewed for mitigation of stormwater impacts. Five main concerns arose which may be addressed at a meeting proposed for next week, but were not sufficiently described within the CEQA document.

1. Mitigation or treatment should be described for iron, manganese, nickel, and fecal coliform whose level will exceed ambient conditions. The mitigation should include the cost estimate.

LARWQCB-2

### *California Environmental Protection Agency*

\*\*\*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption\*\*\*  
\*\*\*For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>\*\*\*



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2. Pollutant load calculations should be more fully described. Desirable analyses include calculations of the effect of proposed BMPs (swales, basins, inserts, and centrifugal separators) on annual mass loading; more specific description of the mass loading from different land uses, such as residential, commercial, open space and public utilities; and the estimation of pollutant load from rainfall data and event mean concentrations.

LARWQCB-3

3. The choice of Chem A and Lannate as representatives of pesticides of the concern for the pollutant-loading model may not be appropriate. Based on Ventura Countywide 2001 monitoring report, 4,4'-DDE, a chlorinated pesticide, appears to be a pollutant of concern both at Calleguas Creek and Ventura River mass emission stations. Therefore, for pollutant models, you shall include 4,4'-DDE as a pesticide of concern.

LARWQCB-4

4. a. Accessway to the detention basins does not seem to be part of the design. This will pose a maintenance challenge during your proposed implementation of the proposed once in five years sediment removal to cleanup the bottom of the basins.

LARWQCB-5

b. There seems to be discrepancy in information provided in the reports on basin capacity to prevent storm water from infiltrating into the aquifer below: Volume II of the reports, appendix 4-5-4, states "...these basins are lined with impermeable material and provide sufficient capacity..the lined basin bottoms will prevent storm water from infiltrating through the basins' floors to the aquifer below." (p.11). However, Volume I, section 4-5 states "flows are retained in these basins and percolate into the aquifer and/or evaporate into the atmosphere" (p.4-5-14). Please clarify these statements.

LARWQCB-6

5. Pervious parking is listed as one of the structural BMPs to be used in selected parking lots for storm water management. However, no details on design of these pervious surfaces, nor proposed locations have been provided.

LARWQCB-7

Basin Plan Requirements

The use of the gravel pits as reservoirs in this plan clarifies their correct definition as a surface water body used for drinking water supplies relative to basin planning standards. Under such conditions, if the collection of data to determine compliance of the project with discharge permits determines basin planning objectives have been exceeded, the area of the pits could be listed as impaired independent of the Santa Clara River.

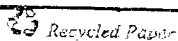
LARWQCB-8

In addition to the iron, manganese and nickel discussed above, the CEQA document review leads staff to predict that the project may have cumulative impacts for cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and mercury, which would be collected in settling basins at levels above basin planning standards, but below NPDES discharge limits, and remobilized during flooding events. Further, significant critical condition may occur in the gravel pits for pH, turbidity, TDS, sulfate, and complex organic molecules such as xylene, ethylene dibromide, carbon tetrachloride, chloroethylene compounds, and vinyl chloride when surface diluting flows are absent. While

LARWQCB-9

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your analysis demonstrates attainment of NPDES discharge limits relative to average conditions, a finding of no significant impact or successful mitigation for the constituents, relative to basin planning standards, under cumulative and critical conditions would need additional discussion.

LARWQCB-9

TMDL issues

The project site lies in the Santa Clara watershed that was listed in 1998 as being impaired pursuant to Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act. Impairments listed in the vicinity and downstream of the proposed project include coliform bacteria and historic pesticides. The Regional Board will be developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the watershed, but the proposed project is expected to proceed before applicable TMDLs are adopted. In the interim, the Regional Board must carefully evaluate the potential impacts of additional loading of those pollutants that impair the water body.

The project you describe was determined by your analysis and our own to have significant and cumulative impacts for the TMDL pollutant coliform. The Clean Water Act precludes the Regional Board from approving the discharge of increased levels of a contaminant to a watershed when that watershed has already been found to be impaired for the contaminant for projects where additional loading is likely to be produced, except where the project proponent identifies mitigation measures or offsets which are technically sound and feasible. Where economics appear to specifically preclude the use of a given remedy, another should be described.

LARWQCB-10

We appreciate your participation and support of the TMDL process, while they are being developed. The project plan defines work you have already completed toward the goal of describing feasible mitigation alternatives should load limits be identified in future TMDLs and this work is listed below. The Regional Board recommends additional work, also listed below.

**Work already completed by you in support of the ongoing and proposed TMDLs**

- 1) Average load estimation for coliform and Chem A.
- 2) Water balance and estimation of project impact on concentration for most regulated compounds under average conditions and relative to NPDES permit effluent limitations
- 3) Summary of land use types and pollutant loading estimates
- 4) Assessment of existing conditions
- 5) Description of some mitigation options for pollutants
- 6) Quantification of some mitigation options if applied to pollutants

LARWQCB-11

**Work recommended in support of the ongoing, planned and future TMDLs**

LARWQCB-12

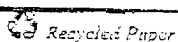
- 1) Analysis of critical and cumulative condition for some regulated compounds as discussed above.
- 2) Definition of mitigation measures or offset projects of sufficient size to equal the additional load for coliform and Chem A already identified by you and under critical condition
- 3) Solute, transient, dynamic modeling showing the impact of pollutants concentrated in gravel pits on groundwater pumping for potable water.

LARWQCB-13

LARWQCB-14

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4) Continuing participation in public forums on developing TMDLs in the Santa Clara River watershed.

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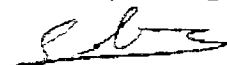
For your information a list of permitting requirements and Regional Board Contacts is provided in Attachment A hereto.

If you have any questions please call me at (213) 576-6633.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Erickson  
Associate Geologist, TMDL Unit  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

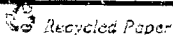


Ejigu Solomon  
Unit Chief, Ventura Storm Water Unit  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

EE, ES  
Attachments (1)  
cc: File  
State Clearinghouse (2000051046)

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Rodney Neison, Landfills Unit, at (213) 576-6719.

\*\*\*\*\*

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